

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P 251143Z APR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1010

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. PRESS

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE: DR. PRESS' STATEMENT
AT 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION CONFERENCE

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 TRANSCRIPTION OF STATEMENT WHICH DR. PRESS MADE ON APRIL 13 AT NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE. SCIENCE COMMITTEE SECRETARY FORWARDED TRANSCRIPTION WITH FOLLOWING COVERING NOTE:
" PLEASE FIND ATTACHED THE TRANSCRIPTION OF THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT AS MADE, BY YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED CONFERENCE. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD LET ME KNOW AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, AND IN ANY CASE NO LATER THAN 5TH MAY, WHETHER THIS TRANSCRIPTION ACCURATE- LY REFLECTS WHAT YOUR DELEGATE SAID. THE STATEMENTS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE COURSE OF NEXT MONTH FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE SUMMIT MEETING TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF MAY."

2. STATEMENT BY DR. PRESS. BEGIN TEXT: AS WE DRAW TO THE CLOSE OF OUR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM I BELIEVE SOME WORDS OF PRAISE, SOME WORDS OF CONCERN, AND SOME
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RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PERHAPS IN ORDER.

THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TWENTY YEARS OF ACTIVITY OF THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE ARE TRULY REMARKABLE. THE FELLOWSHIPS, THE INSTITUTES HAVE AIDED THE CAREERS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF NATO COUNTRY SCIENTISTS AND ALL OF THIS ACCOMPLISHED WITH A RELATIVELY SMALL STAFF AND A RELATIVELY SMALL

BUDGET. WE ARE NOW DRAWING THE DIVIDENDS OF THIS TWENTY YEARS OF SUPPORT. WE CAN SEE IT IN MANY WAYS; WE CAN SEE IT IN THE STRENGTHENED INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES, IN THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRIES, AND IN ITS EFFECT ON THE CULTURE OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES. I THINK THAT PROFESSOR ZIMAN HAD THIS IN MIND WHEN HE REMINDED US THAT SCIENCE WITH ITS LONG-TERM BENEFITS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS A SOCIAL INVESTMENT WITH DIVIDENDS AVAILABLE TO ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES, AND, AS HE SAID, SCIENCE IS REALLY A BODY OF IDEAS AND IDEAS ARE CARRIED OUT BY PEOPLE AND THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE IN EMPHASIZING INDIVIDUALS, PEOPLE, SELECTING THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES HAS CONTRIBUTED ENORMOUSLY TO OUR BENEFIT.

SOME CONCERN: UNFORTUNATELY, THE SUPPORT MEASURED IN DEFLATED CURRENCY OVER THE YEARS IS DOWN; THE PROGRAMMES HAVE CONTRACTED. I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS IN ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES, NAMELY THAT THE EXIGENCIES OF THE NEAR-TERM HAVE FORCED OUT FROM CONSIDERATION OUR LONGER-TERM NEEDS. IN MY OWN COUNTRY WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN STOCK OF THE HEALTH OF THE SCIENTIFIC ENTERPRISE AND HAVE FOUND THAT, ALTHOUGH IT WAS STRONG, SOME SIGNS OF DECAY HAD SET IN; AND THIS WAS THE BASIS OF A CHANGE IN PHILOSOPHY OF A MAJOR THRUST TO AGAIN TREAT SCIENCE, TREAT RESEARCH, WITH HIGH PRIORITY.

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SOME RECOMMENDATIONS: AT THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE, IT IS TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND PERHAPS TO CHART NEW DIRECTIONS. I THINK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD THIS IN MIND IN THE MESSAGE THAT I READ TO YOU WHEN HE SAID, "I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOUR DELIBERATIONS WILL SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF NEW EFFORTS BY THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM TO USE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEMS OF OUR SOCIETIES".

I THINK WE HAVE TO PRESERVE THE BEST OF THE PAST, THAT WONDERFUL PROGRAM OF INSTITUTES, OF FELLOWSHIPS AND FIND MORE SUPPORT FOR THESE INSTITUTES AND FELLOWSHIPS, AS SOME OF THE SPEAKERS HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED. THIS WILL PROVIDE FOR THE LONG-TERM NEEDS OF ALL OF OUR COUNTRIES. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR HIGHER BUDGETARY PRIORITY, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, IN ORDER TO BE HELPFUL, BECAUSE OUR HELP IS NEEDED, WE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE IN OTHER WAYS AS WELL, PERHAPS WITH INTERMEDIATE-TERM RELEVANCE. SOME SUGGESTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, EXPANDING THE CONCEPT INTO THE AREAS OF TECHNOLOGY, FOR EXAMPLE, INSTITUTES DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS. I CAN SUGGEST, PERHAPS ANOTHER EXAMPLE THAT THE NATO COMMITTEE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER A SYMPOSIUM

ON WHAT THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY WILL BE LIKE TEN YEARS FROM NOW, HOW OUR LIVES WILL BE CHANGED BY MICRO-PROCESSORS, BY LASERS, BY GENETIC ENGINEERING. AND THEN AT THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH A CONFERENCE, PERHAPS BRINGING MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, MINISTERS OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, SUB-CABINET MEMBERS TO THIS SYMPOSIUM SO THAT THEY MAY HEAR THE RESULTS OF THESE FORECASTS. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY IN KEEPING WITH THE WAY THAT SCIENCE HAS SERVED NATIONS IN THE PAST AS AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM AS MEN AND WOMEN WHO CAN BEST PORTRAY THE FUTURE.

IN A FEW WORDS, THEREFORE, I SHOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE THE

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NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO BUILD THE PROGRAM IN THE WAY THAT THEY HAVE IN THE PAST, USING THE SUCCESSFUL METHODS OF THE PAST, BUT ALSO TO THINK OF OTHER WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH SCIENCE TO SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY ALL OF OUR NATIONS. THIS IS THE TRADITION OF SCIENCE, PERHAPS BEST EXEMPLIFIED WHEN EINSTEIN WROTE TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND OPENED UP THE ATOMIC AND NUCLEAR AGE FOR THE WORLD. END TEXT.

3.ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE INFORMED BY MAY 4 WHETHER DR. PRESS' STATEMENT,AS RECORDED ABOVE, IS ACCURATE.
BENNETT

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